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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,087	12/20/2001	Alan B. Shuey	010071	3407

9961 7590 05/05/2003  
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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/029,087

Applicant(s)

SHUEY, ALAN B.

Examiner

Ruth C. Rodriguez

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Information Disclosure Statement*

1. The information disclosure statement filed 15 March 2002 has been considered for this Office Action.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Facey et al. (US 6,003,210) in view of Pasbrig (US 4,889,320).

Facey discloses a releasable cable grip connector (23) locks a cable segment (20) within a housing. The cable grip connector comprises a housing (27), a channel and a wedge means. The housing has a first bore therethrough (24A) to receive a first cable segment and a second bore (24B) therethrough parallel to the to the first bore to receive a second cable segment (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The first and second bores have a diameter that permit freely passing the first and second cable segments through the bores. The first and second bores are straight throughout the extent of the housing. The channel within the housing is disposed to one side of the first bore an

acutely inclined to and, at its inner end, breaking into the first bore (Fig. 8). The wedge means within the housing in the channel and spring-loaded by a coil spring to bias the wedge means against the cable segment within the first bore to wedge the cable segment against the first bore and thereby grip the cable segment (C. 1, L. 8-20). The coil spring that loads the wedge is positioned axially within the channel (Fig. 8). Facey utilizes a tool (35) to free the cable. Facey fails to disclose using a release lever extending through a slot in the body to release the cable grip. However, Pasbrig teaches a releasable cable grip comprising roller means (5), a release lever (6,9,10) and a housing (1) with a bore (15), a channel (2) and a slot (27). The slot in the housing extends parallel to the channel and to the coil spring within the channel and communicates with the channel (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7). The release lever is fixed to the roller means and extends through the slot to the outside of the housing whereby the release lever may be utilized to move the roller means away from a cable segment (16) and permit movement of the cable segment relative to the first bore (C. 2, L. 7-16 and Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a release lever according to the teaching of Pasbrig in the each of the bores of the cable grip of Facey. Doing so as mentioned above, will facilitate the release of the cable because the release force will be directly applied to the release lever in order to move the wedge means against the bias of the spring.

Pasbrig also teaches that the roller means has a release lever extending outwardly from each side of the roller means through respective slots in opposite sides of the housing (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7).

Facey fails to disclose a release lever for the wedge means in the second channel. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have a release lever extending through a in the housing parallel to a channel and communicating therewith according to the teachings of Pasbrig in a second channel disposed to one side of the second bore and acutely inclined to and, at its inner end, breaking into the second bore with a second wedge means (Fig. 8) as disclosed by Facey. Doing so as mentioned above, will facilitate the release of the cable because the release force will be directly applied to the release lever in order to move the wedge means against the bias of the spring.

Facey fails to disclose a release lever extending outwardly from each side of the wedge means through respective slots in the housing parallel to the channel. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a release lever extending outwardly from each side of the wedge means through respective slots in the housing parallel to the channel as taught by Pasbrig for the wedge means and the second wedge means disclosed by Facey such that each wedge means has a release lever extending outwardly from each side of the respective wedge means. Doing so as mentioned above, will facilitate the release of the cable because the release force will be directly applied to the release lever in order to move the wedge means against the bias of the spring.

Facey discloses that the channel, the second channel and the wedge means and the second wedge means are all positioned in the central portion of the housing and the wedge means and the second wedge means force the cable segments outwardly away from each other (C. 2, L. 7-16 and Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7).

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claim 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 04 March 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. The first argument presented by the Applicant is that Pasbrig fails to teach that the slots are not parallel to the spring. The Examiner fails to agree with this argument. The Applicant only cites the figures 8a and 8b to support his argument. However as cited not in the current Office Action, Figures 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-7 clearly show the spring is parallel to the slots.

7. The Applicant also argues that the Facey teaches against the combination with Pasbrig because Facey has a tool to release the wedges and that Pasbrig fails to teach the use of the release lever in a housing with two bores. This argument fails to persuade. The Examiner acknowledges that the reference by Facey discloses the use of a tool to release the wedges disposed in the two bores of the housing. However, Facey does not include any statement precluding from using any other methods to release the wedges that is why the teaching of Pasbrig is used. Pasbrig teaches a release lever extending out of the housing where the force needed to move the wedge is directly applied to the release lever against the bias of the spring. By using this

teaching of Pasbrig in each of the bores of Facey, the release of the cable is further simplified because the use of a separable tool to release the cable segment will not be required.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Knoche (US 1,165,785), Pasbrig (US 3,628,221 and US 4,889,320), Moransais (US 3,709,071), Wagner (US 3,939,594), Natkins (US 6,131,969), European Patent Document EP 0 013 693 A1, Swiss Patent Document 634 249 A5 and British Patent

Document GB 2 210 517 A are cited to show state of the art with respect to releasable cable grips having some of the features of the current application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-1881. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. Technology center 3600's facsimile number for before final communications is (703) 872-9326. Technology center 3600's facsimile number for after final communications is (703) 872-9327.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

*RCR*  
rcr  
April 28, 2003

Ruth C. Rodriguez  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3677

*William Miller*  
William Miller  
Primary